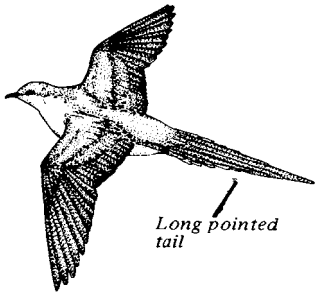


# Know Your Doves

As a hunter, it is your legal and moral responsibility to identify your targets before you shoot. There are at least eight species of doves and pigeons that occur in Texas, of which only four are legal to hunt. The following descriptions will help you recognize these eight species and may prevent you from making an embarrassing and costly mistake.

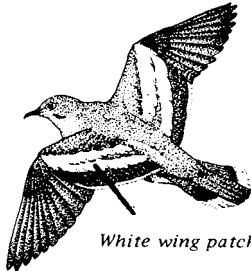
## Legal Game Birds

(May Be Hunted During Open Seasons)



**Mourning Dove**

Slightly smaller than white-winged dove with long pointed tail. Generally seen in flights of one or two birds. May mix with flights of whitewings but can be readily distinguished by its more rapid wing beat, erratic flight path, and pointed tail. Common throughout Texas with large concentrations in farm and ranch country.



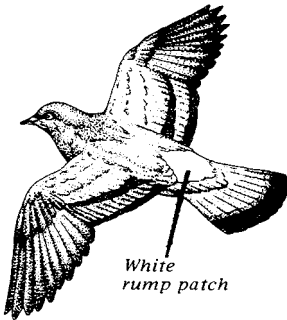
**White-winged Dove**

Larger than a mourning dove with conspicuous white bar on wing and a long, moderately rounded tail. Generally in flocks during September before fall migration to Central America. Common along the Rio Grande and Upper South Texas. Increasing in number throughout Central, West, and North Texas.



**White-tipped Dove**  
(White-fronted)

Slightly larger than white-winged dove with rust colored wing linings (underside) and large, moderately rounded tail. Size and shape are similar to whitewing. South Texas is the only place in the United States where this nonmigratory dove can be found. Common adjacent to brush areas and citrus groves. Generally seen as single bird flying close to the ground.

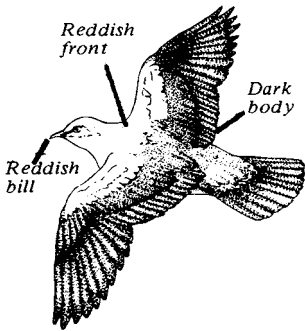


**Rock Dove**  
(Feral Pigeon)

Common in cities and around farms. Large in size and varies in color from gray, brown, to all white. All have white rump patch. They generally fly in flocks and do not readily mix with other wild birds. It is an introduced species and is often raised by individuals as are other varieties of racing and fancy pigeons.

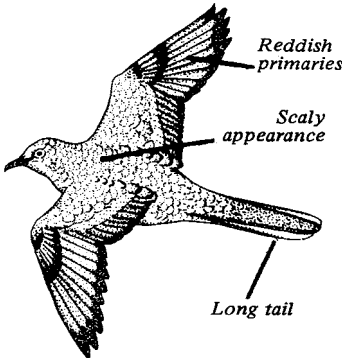
## Protected Birds

(May Not Be Hunted)



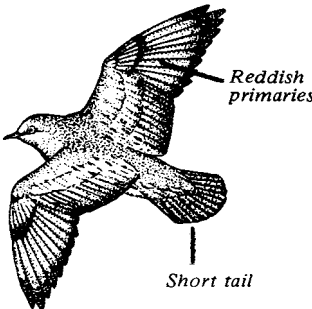
**Red-billed Pigeon**

Similar in size to the domestic pigeon. Pinkish head and shoulders. Bluish gray body. Bill is reddish. Uncommon in Rio Grande Valley but can be found occasionally near larger brush tracts adjacent to Rio Grande. Will fly with white-wings. Larger size is good key. Can be easily misidentified.

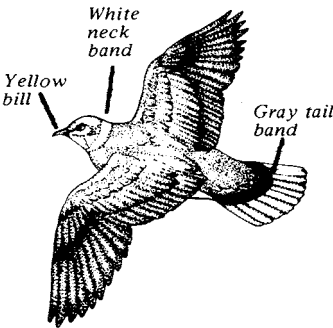


**Inca Dove**

Inca Dove and Ground Dove: Small birds, approximately half the size of a mourning dove. Both are gray and fly close to the ground with rapid wingbeats. The Inca has a scaly appearance with a long tail that has white margins. Ground dove has a short, round dark tail. Both are common throughout South Texas.



**Ground Dove**



**Band-tailed Pigeon**

Locally common in oak and pine woods in the mountains of the Trans-Pecos Region. Large size, white neck band, and broad gray tail band distinguish this bird from all others.

**Remember, all birds except Rock Doves (Feral Pigeons), Starlings, English Sparrows, Grackles, Ravens, Red-winged Blackbirds, Cowbirds, and Crows are protected under state law and the fine for shooting a protected bird can be from \$25 to \$500 per bird. Check federal laws for additional regulations.**

For additional information, contact:

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